

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending and under consideration.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites that the filter comprises a filtering portion and an insertion portion included at both end portions of the filtering portion. Thus, the structure of the filter including a filtering portion and an insertion portion is recited. Present Figure 7 illustrates these features, for example.

In contrast, Bonn does not disclose the particular elements of a filter. The Examiner relies upon the re-circulating filter 110. However, this element is illustrated schematically by the hatched region in Figure 3 of the reference. However, there is no detail of this element in Figure 3. Instead, Figure 3 illustrates an oblong hatched region, however, there is no distinction between any different portions of the filter 110. In fact, Figure 3 appears to illustrate that the re-circulating filter 110 is a single piece structure.

Independent claim 1 further recites that the insertion portion is inserted into the support grooves forming a seal. In contrast, Bonn discloses that fingers 112 taper inward "to tightly hold a filter inserted therein." Bonn, column 3, lines 52-53. However, it is respectfully submitted that tightly holding is not necessarily equivalent to forming a seal. The fingers 112 may tightly hold filter 110, however, the shape of the interface therebetween may not be sufficient to form a seal. Thus, the problems of the admitted prior art, such as air flowing to the filter escaping through a gap between the filter and a support, may still occur.

Furthermore, dependent claim 2 recites that the insertion portion is formed by extending a material forming the filtering portion a predetermined length from both end portions of the filtering portion to have a thickness narrower than that of the filtering portion. However, as discussed above, details of the filter 110 of Bonn are not specifically illustrated, or discussed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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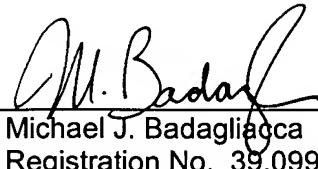
Docket No. 1293.1894

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501